

Filed for intro on 01/30/95  
Senate Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

House Bill No.HJR0027  
By Jones

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of legendary track star  
Wilma Rudolph of Clarksville.

WHEREAS, it was with deep sadness that the members of this body and the citizens of Tennessee learned of the death of Wilma Rudolph, the inspirational sprinter whose swift legs conquered polio and carried her to three gold medals at the 1960 Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, Wilma was shackled by leg braces as a child and told by doctors that she would never walk; and

WHEREAS, with a strong will and fierce determination, she overcame polio, double pneumonia and scarlet fever, to become an important part of the 1956 Tennessee State University track team that won a bronze medal, in the 400-meter relay event, at the Olympic Games, in Melbourne; and

WHEREAS, at the historic 1960 Olympic Games Wilma Rudolph won the 100-meter event in a world record 11.0 seconds; the 200 meters in 24.0 seconds, after establishing a world record for the event of 23.2 seconds in the opening heat, and anchored the gold medal 400-meter relay squad, that included Martha Hudson, Lucinda Williams and Barbara Jones, which had previously set a world record of 44.4 seconds, in the semifinals; and

WHEREAS, she thus became the first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at one Olympics; and

WHEREAS, in 1960 and 1961, she was named the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year. She also won the 1961 Sullivan Award as the nation's outstanding amateur athlete and was elected the prestigious National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1974; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the sport, Rudolph entered the corporate world and served as a goodwill ambassador for United States to French West Africa. She co-hosted a network radio show, was a spokesperson for Minute Maid orange Juice and served admirably as an administrative analyst for UCLA. She also served as an executive in Indianapolis and later Nashville, and spent some time as a track coach at DePauw University, in Indiana; and

WHEREAS, her fascinating autobiography Wilma became a made-for-television movie; and

WHEREAS, she also contributed her expertise on the lecture circuit and was president of the Wilma Rudolph Foundation, a nonprofit organization devoted to teaching youngsters that they have the ability to overcome obstacles just as she did; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause to honor the memory of this great Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Wilma Rudolph, a person whose exemplary life touched many. We express our deepest sympathy to her family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be prepared, with this final resolving clause deleted.

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